

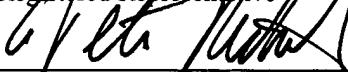
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage, as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
on January 9, 2004

Date of Deposit

G. Peter Nichols, Reg. No. 34,401

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative



Signature

January 9, 2004

Date of Signature

Case No. 659/1483
K-C Ref. No. 14,747

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Tsai et al.

Serial No: 09/474,634

Examiner: Christopher C. Pratt

Filed: December 29, 1999

Group Art Unit: 1771

For: BIODEGRADABLE
THERMOPLASTIC NONWOVEN
WEBS FOR FLUID MANAGEMENT

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (37 CFR § 1.114)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant requests continued examination under 37 CFR § 1.114.



Applicant is:



a small entity, verified statement is:



attached



already filed



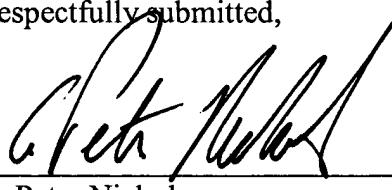
other than small entity

01/13/2004 AWDNDAF1 00000112 09474634
01 FC:1801
02 FC:1202
770.00 0P
126.00 0P

- The fee set forth in § 1.17(e) must be filed along with this request:
 - Attached is a check for the § 1.17(e) fee.
 - Charge the § 1.17(e) fee to Deposit Account No. 23-1925.
A duplicate copy of this request is attached.
- A submission must be filed along with this request. The following submission(s) is(are) filed herewith:
 - An Information Disclosure Statement
 - An Amendment to the written description, claims, or drawings
 - New Arguments and/or New Evidence in Support of Patentability
 - Other: _____
- A petition and fee for a one-month extension of the time is enclosed herewith.
- A check in the amount of \$126 to cover the additional claims fee is enclosed.
- Charge any additional fee required or credit for any excess fee paid to Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this request is attached.

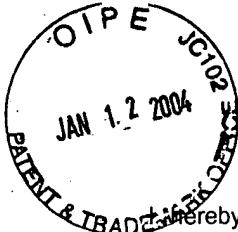
Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 9, 2004



G. Peter Nichols
Registration No. 34,401
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, IL 60610
(312) 321-4200



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage, as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Mail Stop RCE, Alexandria VA 22313-1450

January 9, 2004

Date of Deposit

S. Peter Nichols

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

Signature

January 9, 2004

Date of Signature

Our Case No. 659/1483 (K-C 14747)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Tsai)
Application No. 09/474,634)
Filing Date: December 29, 1999)
For BIODEGRADABLE)
THERMOPLASTIC NONWOVEN)
WEBS FOR FLUID MANAGEMENT)

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450 – Mail Stop RCE
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 9, 2003, for which Applicant filed a Notice of Appeal and now files a Request for Continued Examination, please reconsider the application in view of the following amendments and remarks: